# **Executive Summary**

As the Superfund program entered its fifteenth year in December 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or the "Agency") continued to fulfill the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) for protecting public health, welfare, and the environment. CERCLA requires that EPA update Congress each year on progress in the Superfund program. This Report fulfills the requirement.

EPA is committed to accelerating the pace of hazardous waste site cleanup. As part of this commitment, the Agency completed construction activities to place 68 National Priorities List (NPL) sites in the construction completion category during fiscal year 1995 (FY95). By the end of the fiscal year, work had occurred at more than 95 percent of the 1,374 sites proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL, including a total of 346 sites (25 percent) that have achieved construction completion. Leaving a total of 1,236 sites currently listed on the NPL for FY95. Reflecting the Agency's increasing emphasis on completing site cleanups, more than 80 percent of the construction completions have been achieved in the past four years.

The Agency also continued its successful efforts to encourage potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to undertake and finance cleanup efforts at Superfund sites. PRPs were leading more than 75 percent of remedial designs (RDs) and remedial actions (RAs) started during the fiscal year. Since the inception of the Superfund program, EPA has reached agreements worth more than \$11 billion for PRP response work at Superfund sites, including \$1.4 billion achieved this year.

This Report summarizes Superfund FY95 progress, highlighting accomplishments and initiatives to improve the program. Exhibit ES-1 presents a summary of FY95 accomplishments. Exhibit ES-2 provides a comparison of FY95 accomplishments with those of previous years and presents cumulative program accomplishments. FY95 accomplishments reflect the Agency's commitment to, and focus of resources on, activities required to complete site cleanups.

## **Site Evaluation Progress**

EPA continued its progress in identifying and assessing newly discovered sites. At the end of FY95, there were 39,000 sites identified in the CERCLA Information System, the Superfund inventory of potentially hazardous waste sites. EPA had evaluated more than 95 percent of these sites for potential threats. The assessment activities included 36,913 preliminary assessments and 17,584 site inspections. Based on these evaluations, EPA has determined that 1,374 of the sites should be proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL. For a total of 1,232 remaining on the NPL for FY95. These sites include nine proposed to, 30 listed on, and 25 deleted from the NPL during FY95. To date, a total of 90 sites have been deleted from the NPL.

#### **Emergency Response Progress**

To protect human health and the environment from immediate or near-term threats, the Agency and PRPs started nearly 311 removal actions and completed 298 during FY95. More than 3,971

# Exhibit ES-1 Summary of Fiscal Year 1995 Superfund Activities

Summary of riscal real 1999 Superfulla Activit		1
Remedial Activities		
Percentage of National Priorities List Sites Where Work Has Begun		95%
Sites Classified as Construction Completions as of September 30, 1995		346
Sites with Remedial Activities in Progress on September 30, 1995		854
Records of Decision Signed <sup>1</sup>		187
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Starts <sup>2</sup>		30
Fund-Financed		33%
Potentially Responsible Party-Financed		67%
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies in Progress on September 30, 1995		836
Remedial Design Starts <sup>2</sup>		84
Fund-Financed		29%
Potentially Responsible Party-Financed		71%
Remedial Designs in Progress on September 30, 1995		413
Remedial Action Starts <sup>2</sup>		110
Fund-Financed		16%
Potentially Responsible Party-Financed		84%
Remedial Actions in Progress on September 30, 1995		516
Removal Activities		
Removal Action Starts <sup>2</sup>		311
Fund-Financed		81%
Potentially Responsible Party-Financed		19%
Removal Action Completions <sup>2</sup>		298
Fund-Financed		76%
Potentially-Responsible Party-Financed		24%
Site Assessment Activities		
CERCLIS Sites Added <sup>2</sup>		700
Preliminary Assessments Conducted <sup>2</sup>		813
Site Inspections Conducted <sup>2</sup>		584
National Priorities List Sites to Date		1,374
Sites Proposed for Listing During Fiscal Year 1995		1,374
Final Sites Listed During Fiscal Year 1995		30
Sites Deleted During Fiscal Year 1995		25
		25
Enforcement Activities		
Settlements for All Potentially Responsible Party Response Activities	222	(\$851 million) <sup>3</sup>
Remedial Design/Remedial Action Settlements <sup>4</sup>	77	(\$671 million)
Unilateral Administrative Orders Issued (All Actions)	94	N/A
Cost Recovery Dollars Collected	N/A	(\$254 million)
Accomplishments at Federal Facility Sites		
Records of Decision Signed		82
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Starts <sup>2</sup>		45
Remedial Design Starts <sup>2</sup>		54
Remedial Action Starts <sup>2</sup>		59
Records of decision signed for Fund-financed and potentially responsible party Numerical values for accomplishments based on information from CERCLIS ha Estimated value of work potentially responsible parties have agreed to underta	ve been ro	

Sources: CERCLIS; Office of Waste Programs Enforcement; Office of Emergency and Remedial Response; Federal Register notices through September 30, 1995.

Remedial design/remedial action settlements include remedial design/remedial action consent decrees and unilateral administrative orders with potentially responsible parties have stated their intention to comply.

	Exhib	it ES-2			
Summary of	<b>Program</b>	<b>Activity</b>	by	<b>Fiscal</b>	Year

	FY80-86 Total	FY87	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	Total
Removal Completions <sup>1,2</sup>	810	230	320	260	290	270	340	290	240	298	3,348
CERCLIS Sites <sup>1</sup>	25,200	27,600	30,000	31,900	33,600	34,200	36,400	37,500	38,300	700	39,000
PA Completions <sup>1</sup>	20,200	4,000	2,900	2,200	1,600	1,300	1,900	1,100	900	813	36,913
SI Completions <sup>1</sup>	6,400	1,300	1,200	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,300	700	600	584	17,584
National Priorities List Sites <sup>3</sup>	901	964	1,194	1,254	1,236	1,245	1,275	1,320	1,355	1,374	1,374
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Starts <sup>1,2</sup>	660	210	170	170	170	70	90	60	70	30	1,700
Records of Decision Signed <sup>2</sup>	199	77	152	136	149	175	126	134	159	187	1,494
Remedial Design Starts <sup>1,2</sup>	120	110	120	180	130	160	170	130	110	84	1,314
Remedial Action Starts <sup>1,2</sup>	70	70	70	110	80	100	110	120	120	110	960
Construction Completions <sup>4</sup>	_	-	-	-	-	61	88	68	61	68	346
National Priorities List Deletions <sup>5</sup>	13	0	5	10	1	9	2	12	13	25	90

Numerical values for accomplishments based on information from CERCLIS in FY80 through FY86 have been rounded.

Sources: CERCLIS; Office of Emergency and Remedial Response; *Federal Register* notices through September 30, 1995.

removal actions have been started and nearly 3,348 have been completed since the inception of the Superfund program.

The Environmental Response Team (ERT) continued to provide expert support for Superfund response actions. During the fiscal year, ERT conducted 157 Superfund responses, responded to 8 oil spills and 3 international incidents, and conducted 240 training courses nationwide.

Response to international incidents are not paid for using Superfund dollars.

Under the reportable quantities (RQ) regulatory program EPA promulgated a final rule on June 12, 1995 (60 *FR* 30926) addressing the designation, RQs, and notification requirements for hazardous substances under CERCLA.

Includes Fund-financed and potentially responsible party-financed activities; excludes federal facility activities and state-lead activities where no Fund monies were spent.

The figures reported in this now represent the cumulative total of proposed, final, and deleted National Priorities List sites as of the end of each fiscal year.

Adopted as measure of program progress by 1991 30-Day Study Task Force. FY91 value represents FY80 through FY91.

Total deletions include two sites referred to other authorities in FY95.

In other efforts, the Agency initiated work on the remaining five volumes of the *Superfund Removal Procedures Manual*.

### **Remedial Progress**

Remedial progress during the fiscal year reflects the Agency's continuing efforts to accelerate the pace of cleanup activities and complete cleanups at Superfund sites. At the end of FY95, work had occurred at 95 percent of the 1,374 sites proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL, and construction activities had been completed to place 346 NPL sites (25 percent) in the construction completion category. During the year, the Agency and PRPs started nearly 30 remedial investigation/feasibility studies (RI/FSs), 84 RDs, and 110 RAs. EPA also signed 187 records of decision (RODs) for Fund-financed and PRP-financed sites. The Agency also completed 37 five-year reviews as required under CERCLA Section 121(c) to ensure that remedies fully protect human health and the environment.

## **Enforcement Progress**

Enforcement progress for FY95 reflects the Agency\*s continued commitment to maximize PRP involvement in financing and conducting cleanup, and to recover Superfund monies expended for response actions. During FY95, EPA reached agreements with PRPs worth more than \$851 million in PRP response work. Through its FY95 cost recovery efforts, EPA achieved \$160 million in settlements and collected more than \$254 million for reimbursement of Superfund expenditures. Examples of significant enforcement actions are provided in Chapter 4 of this Report.

While continuing to promote "enforcement first" to secure PRP involvement in financing and conducting cleanups, the Agency also worked to ensure equity in the enforcement process and to seek ways to reduce transaction costs. To support these goals during FY95, the Agency focused on increasing the use of allocation tools such as alternative dispute resolution, encouraging early settlements with *de minimis* and "de micromis" parties, fostering greater fairness for owners and prospective purchasers of Superfund sites, and evaluating the increased use of mixed funding. The Agency also took steps to increase the effectiveness

of compliance monitoring, improve cost recovery efforts, and expedite enforcement activities to support accelerated cleanups under SACM.

# **Federal Facility Cleanups**

Federal departments and agencies are largely responsible for implementing CERCLA at federal facility sites. To ensure federal facility compliance with CERCLA requirements, EPA provides advice and assistance, oversees activities, and takes enforcement action where appropriate. At sites on the NPL, EPA must concur in remedy selection.

At the end of FY95, there were 2,070 federal facility sites identified on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket and there were 165 federal facility sites proposed to or listed on the NPL, including 160 final and five proposed sites.

Activities during the fiscal year at federal facility sites listed on the NPL, included starting approximately 45 RI/FSs, 54 RDs, and 59 RAs; signing 82 RODs; and achieving construction completion at seven sites.

During FY95, DoD, EPA and states continued to implement the Fast Track Cleanup Program for the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Act. EPA's program activities were directed at working with the DoD and the states to achieve the goal of making property environmentally acceptable for transfer, while protecting human health and the environment at closing or realigning installations. Using resources provided under a Memorandum of Agreement with the DoD, EPA has participated on BRAC Cleanup Teams (BCTs) at 77 BRAC 1, 2, and 3 installations, 23 of which were NPL sites, and 54 were non-NPL. The BCT includes representatives from the military service, EPA, and the state regulatory agency.

CERCLA Section 120(e)(5) requires an annual report to Congress from each federal department or agency on its progress in implementing Superfund at its facilities. EPA's progress at its sites is provided in Section 5.4 of this Report. Of the sites on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket at the end of FY95, 25 were EPA-owned.

# Resource Estimate for Superfund Implementation

Under section 301(h)(1)(c) of CERCLA, EPA is required to estimate the resources needed to implement Superfund, and CERCLA requires that EPA provide the estimates in this Report. Since the enactment of CERCLA in 1980, Congress has provided Superfund with \$15.0 billion in budget authority (FY81 through FY95). This includes \$1.8 billion for the pre-SARA period (FY81 through FY86) and \$13.3 billion for the post-SARA period, FY87 through FY95.

Estimates of the long-term resources required to implement Superfund are based on the Outyear Liability Model (OLM). The OLM estimate of the cost of completing cleanup of current NPL sites is more than \$16.1 billion for FY96 and beyond, bringing the total estimated cost for the program to \$31.1 billion.

## **Superfund Program Support Activities**

EPA took measures in FY95 to enhance community involvement, public access to Superfund information, and EPA's partnership with states and Indian tribes. As required by CERCLA Section 105(f), the Agency also engaged in efforts o encourage minority firm participation in Superfund contracting.

In its community involvement efforts, EPA continued measures to tailor activities to the specific needs of individual communities and to identify ways to enhance community involvement efforts. The Agency emphasized the importance of effective community involvement in its administrative improvements and reauthorization efforts. Agency also continued to provide technical outreach to communities, hold national conferences on community involvement, offer training and workshops, and facilitate community access to technical assistance grants (TAGs). To aid communities in obtaining technical assistance, EPA awarded 26 TAGs during the fiscal year, bringing the total number of TAGs awarded since FY88 to 177, for a total worth of more than \$9 million.

To enhance public access to Superfund information, the Agency continued its partnership with the National Technical Information Service

(NTIS), which provides Superfund document distribution services. During FY95, the Agency expanded the Superfund document collection available through NTIS, continued outreach to inform the public of the services available, and began implementing a communications and outreach plan using NTIS services.

To support state and tribal involvement in the Superfund response activities, EPA has awarded nearly \$1.7 billion in cooperative agreements (CAs), including \$160 million awarded in FY95 through site-specific CAs. To further support state and tribal Superfund programs, EPA engaged in outreach activities, provided technical assistance, and began developing guidance for a state deferral program for NPL-caliber sites

To promote small and disadvantaged business participation in Superfund contracting in FY95, EPA, through direct and indirect procurement, awarded contracts and subcontracts valued at more than \$147.4 million to minority contractors to perform Superfund work. Direct procurement involves any procurement activity in which EPA is a direct party to a contractual arrangement for supplies, services or construction. Under financial assistance programs (indirect procurement), EPA awards grants and/or cooperative agreements to states, local municipalities, universities, colleges, non-profit or profit-making institutions or firms, hospitals and individuals or otherwise known as recipients. This amount represents more than 10.1 percent of the total dollars obligated to finance Superfund work during the year. To help minority contractors become more successful in winning Superfund contracts and encourage them to participate in the Superfund program, EPA conducted training sessions, conferences, and seminars throughout the year.

#### **Organization of this Report**

Information prepared for this Report is assembled in response to Congressional requirements specified in CERCLA. Exhibit ES-3 is a guide to the information required under CERCLA and its location in the Report.

Exhibit ES-3
Statutory Requirements for the Report

	Statutory Requirer	nents for the	Keport
CERCLA Section	CERCLA Requirement	Report Section	Report Content
301(h)(1)	Annual Report to Congress on the progress achieved in implementing	Executive Summary	Initiatives to improve the Superfund program
	Superfund during the preceding fiscal year	Chapter 1	Site evaluation progress
		Chapter 2	Emergency response progress
		Chapter 3	Remedial progress
		Chapter 4	Enforcement progress
		Chapter 5	Federal facility cleanups
		Chapter 7	Community relations, state and Indian tribe, and public outreach activities
301(h)(1)(A)	Detailed description of each feasibility study (FS) at a facility	Section 3.2.4	Overview discussion of RODs signed during the fiscal year, including the number of treatment and containment remedies selected
		Appendix C	List of RODs signed in the fiscal year
301(h)(1)(B)	Status and estimated date of completion of each FS	Appendix A	Status and estimated completion date of each ongoing FS in progress at the end of the fiscal year
301(h)(1)(C)	Notice of each FS which will not meet a previously published schedule for completion and the new estimated date for completion	Appendix A	Scheduled completion date published for the last fiscal year, the scheduled completion date recorded in CERCLIS as of end of the current fiscal year, and identification of schedule changes
301(h)(1)(D)	An evaluation of newly developed feasible and achievable permanent treatment technologies	Section 3.3	Evaluation of newly developed technologies through the Superfund Innovative Treatment Evaluation Program
301(h)(1)(E) 121(c)	Progress made in reducing the number of facilities subject to review under CERCLA Section 121(c), which requires the report to Congress to contain a list of facilities for which a five-year review is required, the results of all such reviews, and any actions taken as a result of such reviews	Section 3.4	Annual update on progress being made on sites subject to review under CERCLA Section 121(c)

CERCLA Section	CERCLA Requirement	Report Section	Report Content
301(h)(1)(F)	Report on the status of all remedial and enforcement actions undertaken during the fiscal year, including a comparison to remedial and enforcement actions	Section 3.2.2	Information on fiscal year remedial activity starts (including PRP involvement) with a comparison of fiscal year activities to those of previous years
	undertaken in prior fiscal years	Section 4.2	Information on fiscal year enforcement activities with a comparison of fiscal year activities to those of previous years
		Appendix A	Information on the status of each RI/FS and RA in progress at the end of the fiscal year
		Appendix B	Information on the status of RDs in progress at the end of the fiscal year
301(h)(1)(G)	Estimates of the amount of resources, including the number of work years or personnel, which would be necessary for each department, agency, or	Sections 6.1 and 6.3	EPA resource estimates for completion of CERCLA implementation
	instrumentality which is carrying out any activities to complete the implementation of all duties vested in the department, agency, or instrumentality	Section 6.4	Other federal agency's and department's estimates for completion of CERCLA implementation
301(h)(2)	Review by the Inspector General and submission of any report related to EPA's activities for reasonableness and accuracy	Appendix D	Review of the Inspector General on this Report
105(f)	Brief description of the contracts which have been awarded to minority firms under Superfund and the efforts made to encourage the participation of such firms in the Superfund program	Section 7.2	Information on minority contracting awards by EPA, states, Indian tribes, and other federal agencies using Superfund monies. EPA efforts to encourage increased minority contractor participation in the Superfund program
120(e)(5)	Annual report to the Congress concerning EPA progress in implementing remedial activities at its facilities	Section 5.4	Report on EPA progress in CERCLA implementation at EPA-owned facilities, including a state-by-state report

# Fiscal Year 1995 Initiatives

In FY95, the Agency focused efforts on identifying possible legislative amendments that would improve the efficiency and equity of the program. Working within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, the Agency also continued to implement the recommendations of the 1993

Superfund Administrative Improvements Task Force. The task force recommendations included implementation of nine new or enhanced initiatives in FY95 and the continuation of eight ongoing initiatives. Exhibit ES-4 provides a summary of major initiatives undertaken by the Agency in FY95.

Exhibit ES-4
Fiscal Year 1995 Superfund Program Initiatives

	Fiscal Year 1995 Superfund Program Initiatives				
Promoting Economic	Promoting Economic Redevelopment				
Brownfields Initiative:	<ul> <li>EPA appointed a Brownfield coordinator to each Region to serve as a point-person for local industrial property revitalization and awarded 29 Brownfield pilots in 1995.</li> <li>EPA is also fostering job-development and training through partnership with Brownfield pilot communities and community colleges.</li> </ul>				
Removing Sites from CERCLIS:	In February 1995, EPA archived 24,000 sites from the CERCLIS inventory that were determined to be of no further federal Superfund interest. (Over 39,000 sites have been listed in CERCLIS, but less than 5% actually become NPL sites.)				
Partial NPL Deletions:	<ul> <li>In May 1995, a workshop was convened to evaluate several alternatives for deleting portions of sites from the NPL. A policy change was recommended that would allow Regions to delete portions of sites based on site geography or medium, in an effort to promote the return of uncontaminated parcels of sites to productive use.</li> </ul>				
Enforcement Reform					
Initiating the Use of Allocation Pilots:	<ul> <li>EPA initiated a new approach to allocation of Superfund costs to PRP's, whereby a neutral allocator selected by the PRP's and EPA conducts a non-binding, out-of-court allocation procedure, and assigns shares of responsibility to the PRP's based on a number of equitable factors. The PRP's can then settle their liability based on their "share" of the cleanup costs assigned by the neutral party.</li> <li>Eight pilot sites were selected, and were guided by several new documents: U.S. Statement of Intent, Overview of the Pilot Allocation, Confidentiality Agreement, and Litigation Standstill and Tolling Agreement.</li> </ul>				
Improving the PRP Search Process (initiated May 1995):	<ul> <li>EPA convened a national Conference in March 1995 to prepare for piloting efforts that would determine whether the time line proposed in the Superfund Reauthorization Act of 1994 is achievable.</li> <li>14 pilot sites were identified and used to test methods of streamlining the PRP search process including, using newspaper advertisements to solicit information about PRP's from the public, conducting early interviews of parties to obtain information and minimize the need for multiple rounds of requests, and gathering information about PRP's regarding the actions of other parties.</li> <li>Based on the findings of the pilot efforts and the Conference, EPA began to expand and update existing PRP search guidance and reorient the PRP search process to facilitate expedited settlements and allocation of responsibility.</li> </ul>				
Expedited Settlements:	EPA began piloting expedited settlement efforts in FY95. At sites where the PRP search process is substantially complete, EPA is settling early with <i>de minimis</i> contributors and with certain PRP's who have a demonstrated limited ability to pay.				

#### **Environmental Justice Executive Order** Issued in May 1995 to specifically address EPA's environmental justice efforts. 12898. Focuses on two main goals: 1)To ensure "No segment of the population, "Environmental regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, as a result of EPA's Justice Strategy": policies, programs, and activities, suffers disproportionately from the adverse human health or environmental effects and all people live in clean, healthy, and sustainable communities", and 2) "Those who must live with environmental decisions--community residents, State, Tribe, and local governments, environmental groups, businesses--must have every opportunity for public participation in the making of those decisions. An informed and involved community is a necessary and integral part of the process to protect the environment." EPA cooperated with the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) and established the **Medical Assistance** Plan: Medical Assistance Plan (MAP) which is designed to improve the delivery of existing medical services to communities with potential exposures to hazardous substances, and to build environmental health expertise in communities through physicians training and placement. **Minority Worker** The Agency, in cooperation with the National Institute of Environmental Health Training: Services, began testing a range of strategies for recruiting and training citizens of low-income and minority communities located near Superfund sites, and in FY95 EPA piloted seven training programs prescribing pre-employment training (literacy and life-skills), as well as environmental health and safety training (hazardous waste and asbestos handling, lead abatement, and health and safety). **Enhancing Community Involvement** Community CAG's, which are designed to fit the needs of the particular community, are an **Advisory Groups:** effective tool in making information more accessible to the public, and in facilitating public participation in cleanup efforts. By the end of FY95, the Agency had piloted 26 CAG sites within 9 Regional offices. **Technical** EPA revised TAG regulation to simplify the TAG application and administrative **Assistance Grants** process by; making TAG's available upon listing the site on the NPL, eliminating (TAG's): the three-year budget period while allowing groups to determine their own budget period according to site specific needs, and removing the 20% administrative cap. EPA initiated 13 pilots to observe what impact community review and comment Community Involvement and on draft Statements of Work, and active dissemination of information would **Enforcement:** have on Superfund cleanups. Improving Clean-up Effectiveness and Consistency Soil Screening Provides soil screening levels (SSL's) for 100 contaminants in soil, contaminant Guidance (released levels below which there is no concern, and contaminant levels above which for public comment further site-specific evaluation is warranted. FY95): SSL's can be used to streamline investigations, thereby saving time and money, and to enhance consistency across soil cleanups.

Land-Use Directive:	• Issued in May 1995 to clarify how land-use should be considered in risk assessment, and to describe how the assumptions about land-use should be made by involving the community, considering the context of the site, and recognizing the site's potential for reuse.
Presumptive Remedies:	EPA examined presumptive remedies for sites with contaminated groundwater, wood-treater facilities, sites with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination, manufactured gas plants, and grain storage sites.
Expanding the Role o	f States and Indian Tribes
Voluntary Cleanup Program:	<ul> <li>EPA initiated a joint EPA, state, and tribal effort to define roles in promoting the development and operation of State and Tribal voluntary cleanup programs, which are designed to speed the cleanup of non-NPL sites.</li> <li>A workgroup consisting of EPA, DOJ, and State representatives was formed to draft EPA guidance that would assist in developing MOA language that addresses state voluntary cleanup programs, and that would assist in examining vehicles for the distribution of any financial support EPA may offer such programs.</li> </ul>
Federal, State, and Tribal Site Management Program:	In May 1995, EPA issued final guidance on the deferral program, that is meant to defer the responsibility for overseeing and compelling PRP actions at selected NPL-caliber sites to the states.
State and Tribal Block Funding:	The Agency is working with states and tribes to identify options to consolidate the Superfund process through block funding. Ten states and one tribe are currently participating in efforts to pilot the block funding concept.